



Partly cloudy  
L: 47  
H: 77 F



Mostly cloudy  
L: 47  
H: 51 F



Mostly sunny  
L: 47  
H: 48 F

## North chapel dedicated during ceremony

See Page 2



## Lackland men run away with M L K tourney

Lady Bombers take

See Page 1B



# Sheppard Senator

Combat Capability Starts Here



Vol. 58, No. 3

Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

January 21, 2004

## Sheppard pilots escape fiery collision

Accident under investigation as routine training mission in Oklahoma claims civilian, two aircraft

By Airman 1st Class Jacques Lickteig  
Staff writer

A civilian crop duster pilot died and two American Sheppard pilots survived a mid-air collision near Frederick, Okla., Tuesday morning.

Capt. Christopher Otis, an 89th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, and 2nd Lt. Roderick James, an 80th Operations Support Squadron student pilot, were flying a routine T-37 Tweet training mission when they collided with Dierk Nash, who was flying an Air Tractor, Inc., AT-502B at about 11:35 a.m.

Both aircraft caught on fire and crashed into a field in Tillman County, Okla., the county's Sheriff Billy Hanes said.

The Sheppard pilots ejected

safely from the aircraft seconds after the collision. They returned to Sheppard Tuesday.

According to an Oklahoma Highway Patrol release, Mr. Nash was pronounced dead at the scene by the Tillman County medical examiner. The two Sheppard pilots were treated at the scene for minor injuries by Tillman County emergency personnel before they were transported back to Sheppard.

Kristin Edwards, vice president of sales for Air Tractor, Inc., an agriculture plane manufacturer in Olney, Texas, said Mr. Nash, a 39-year-old flying service owner from Wheatley, Ark., was delivering the plane to South Dakota as a favor to an Air Tractor dealer out of Arkansas.

Col. H.D. Polombo, 80th

See T-37, Page 3



Photo by John Ingle

T-37 Tweets have been a major part of undergraduate pilot training in the Air Force since the mid-1950s. A Sheppard T-37 collided with a cropduster over rural Oklahoma about 11 miles west of Frederick, Okla., the location of a training airfield used by the 80th Flying Training Wing.

### T-37 Tweet

The T-37B Tweet is a twin-engine jet used for training pilot specialized undergraduate pilot training students in fundamentals of aircraft handling and instrument, formation and night flying.

**Builder:** Cessna Aircraft Co.  
**Power Plant:** two Continental J-69-1-25 turbojet engines  
**Length:** 29-foot, 3 inches  
**Height:** 9-foot, 2 inches  
**Wingspan:** 33-foot, 8 inches  
**Speed:** 360 mph  
**Ceiling:** 35,000  
**Range:** 460 miles  
**Unit cost:** \$164,854  
**Crew:** Two – instructor and student pilot

**Inventory:** 419 in active Air Force

The T-37 went into active use in 1956. The B model became the standard. More than 1,000 were built.

### On the

#### Chow time

When a football autographed by future Hall-of-Fame wide receiver Jerry Rice is seen in a glass-enclosed case, it's usually at some sort of sports or football museum.

But it became part of Sheppard Jan. 13 as it was unveiled as part of the sports-themed Mesquite Dining Facility located across the street from the North Chapel on Eighth Avenue.

The \$7.2 million dollar facility wasn't brought in with the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony. Rather, Col. Joseph Brown, acting 82nd Training Wing vice commander, and Gerald Bettenhausen, president of Work Services Corporation, cut a roughly 3-foot burrito in half to signify the grand opening of the dining hall.

For full story, see Page 3.

### CSAF qualifies in F/A-22

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper ended two weeks of training here Jan. 12, flying his final qualification flight in the F/A-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft.

"I've been involved with the Raptor program for years, in one way or another," General Jumper said. "Now, to be able to fly it and see all that it does firsthand is quite remarkable. The Raptor does everything we have wanted it would do, plus some."

To qualify, the general completed more than 50 hours in aircraft systems and avionics academics, received stealth tactics training emphasizing integrated avionics and super cruise technology, and completed five simulator sessions and three Raptor flights.

For full story, see Page 4.

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## Remembering a King



Photo by Jacques Lickteig

The Inspirational Gospel Worship Service Choir performs at the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebratory Breakfast Jan. 14 at the officers club. The Rev. King was known for his

charismatic enthusiasm for equal rights for all Americans during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. Dr. King was assassinated April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

### Civil rights advocate and pioneer remembered during annual breakfast

By Airman 1st Class Jacques Lickteig  
Staff writer

Six days and 76 years ago in Atlanta, the father of nonviolent protest opened his eyes to the world for the first time, not knowing the hardships he'd face, the milestones he'd make or the impression he'd leave on society when he was long gone.

Now, the birthday of the Rev. (Dr.) Martin Luther King Jr. is a national holiday a time to reflect on the nation's growth since an era when skin pigment determined which fountain one could use; a time to reflect on the nation's internal battles for freedom and equality; and a time to reflect on today's injustices and how to right them.

Sheppard members shared these moments of reflection and introspection with one another at the 2005 Rev. (Dr.) Martin Luther King Jr. Celebratory Breakfast Jan. 14 at the officers club.

In her welcoming speech, 82nd Mission Support Squadron's Sandra Gross said Doctor King mended broken fences through leadership of love.

From 1955, when he organized a 382-day boycott of Montgomery, Ala., bus lines, to April 4, 1968, when he was shot on a balcony overlooking Beale Street in Memphis, Tenn., he held a mirror to America's face and compelled its citizens to change what they saw.

He racked up many accomplishments in the civil-rights movement through his

policy of nonviolence. His actions led to the Supreme Court decision that bans segregation is unconstitutional, awareness about the social injustices at the time and growing support.

In 1963, Time magazine named him Person of the Year. A year later, he was the youngest person to accept the Nobel Peace Prize.

In celebration of these accomplishments, the Inspirational Gospel Worship Service Choir sang at the event. Senior Airman Sidney Mitchell of the 82nd Medical Support Squadron played a gospel melody on his saxophone, and Senior Master Sgt. Ingrid Fitzpatrick, from the 97th Flying Training

See KING, Page 4

## SecAF steps down after 3 years in post

By Staff Sgt. April Lapetola  
89th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AFPN) – Airmen, along with servicemembers from more than 14 nations, bid farewell to the 20th Secretary of the Air Force here Jan. 21.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz presented Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche the Department of Defense award for distinguished public service upon his retirement. His wife, Diane, was recognized with the exceptional civilian service award.

Flanked by Airmen with an F/A-22 Raptor in the background, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper was the host of the event and spoke on changes the Air Force has seen under the direction of Secretary Roche. He said the secretary's personal touch affected each Airman's life.

"(Secretary Roche) will be remembered for all he has done for them, for our Air Force and for our nation," the general said.

Mr. Wolfowitz presided over the ceremony and hailed the secretary

See ROCHE, Page 4



Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber K. Whittington

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche speaks during his retirement ceremony here Jan. 21.

## Sheppard expands use of flu shot

By John Ingle  
Editor

Sheppard and Department of Defense officials have given the go-ahead for immunization clinics to begin administering the flu vaccine to military dependents and retirees.

But, inoculations for all won't begin for some time now, an 82nd Medical Group official said.

"We have to do active duty first, so we might not have enough to do everyone," said Staff Sgt. Kirsten

### Hours of operation

The 82nd Medical Group Immunization Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 6-3757.

Leming, the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the immunization clinic.

Sergeant Leming said the high-risk categories that will be taken care of first include active-duty military and retirees age 55 and older.

About 3,000 student, instructors and military training leaders received either the flu vaccine or FluMist, an inhaled form of the vaccine, during two immunization lines recently. An estimated 3,100 active-duty members have yet to be inoculated here, she said.

The medical group has enough serum to vaccinate the high-risk groups, but Sergeant Leming said they don't have enough to inoculate the other categories. A request has been made to have more of the vaccine delivered to Sheppard, but an arrival date hasn't been announced.

The Defense Department's top health official, Dr. William Winkler, said he signed a memorandum directing the expanded use of stored flu shot serum for servicemembers and other eligible recipients such as family members and military retirees. This policy change allows the services to use flu shots for non-high risk persons, including active-duty, while continuing their aggressive efforts to get high-risk beneficiaries vaccinated.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. About 36,000 Americans die from the flu each year.

DOB news has about 500,000

See FLU, Page 4

## Divine devotion



Photo by Lou Anne Sledge

Chap. (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, deputy chief of chaplains for the Air Force, addresses the congregation at Sunday's dedication of the 82nd Training Wing Chaplain Division's renovated north chapel. Leadership from the 82nd Training Wing and 80th Flying Training Wing attended the service listen as Chaplain Richardson delivers his sermon.

### Chaplain Division dedicates newly renovated north chapel

By Airman 1st Class Jacques Lickette  
Staff writer

The north chapel, Bldg. 810, opened its doors to fellowship and praise for a dedication ceremony Sunday after about eight months of renovation.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord,'" Chap. (Lt. Col.) Michael Lovett said, quoting Psalm, during the north chapel dedication ceremony.

From April to December 2004, chapel-goers went to Bldg. 1900 for services that would usually be at the north chapel, while workers from Johnson Controls, along with members from the 82nd Civil Engineer Squadron, put in about \$850,000 in upgrades to the chapel.

1st Lt. Matt Joseph, from the 82nd CES, said they upgraded the sanctuary and altar. The lighting in the sanctuary is also a new addition.

"We had kind of a catwalk layout in that area before, but now it's more traditional," said Senior Master Sgt. Ivory Baker, chaplain assistant superintendent.

The workers also took down the tile ceiling, which revealed the building's original wood-paneled ceiling. They renovated the original styled ceiling and added insulation, Lieutenant Joseph said.

The chapel also boasts new multimedia equipment, such as a new sound system, a new large screen and a new computer system, Sergeant Baker said.

They also added two more entrances, making a total of three, Lieutenant Joseph said, which are now Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

The north chapel now has a solution for parents with loud children. The contract included adding a new "cry room," or a room separate from the sanctuary for parents and children

where they can watch the service live on television.

They enlarged four of the five bathrooms and made all five bathrooms ADA compliant, upgraded the heating and air conditioning system and refurbished the floors, windows and walls in the annex, the lieutenant said.

He said Susan Fridrich, an interior designer from Studio West, worked hand-in-hand with 82nd CES members to develop a color scheme and optimum layout, which led to the chapel's new contemporary look.

"It's absolutely conducive to worship," Chaplain Lovett said.

And worship is exactly what took place at the chapel Sunday. The Singing Falcons, an Airman-in-training choir, sang "Cum Sancto," which means sing praise to God. The congregation sang a praise song and the gospel choir sang, "This is Your House Lord."

82nd Training Wing

Commander Brig. Gen. James Whitmore told the congregation about the first chapel dedication ceremony at Sheppard, which was Dec. 7, 1941, the day America was drawn into World War II by the attack on Pearl Harbor. He said the current congregation shared many things with the Airman who met there more than 63 years ago. They were there to dedicate a building, to help prepare Airmen to defend the country and to fight and in a global war.

Chap. (Brig. Gen.) Cecil Richardson, Air Force Deputy Chief of Chaplains, gave his message about bringing the fire of God into one's life, relating Elijah's story to everyone's lives.

After Chaplain Richardson spoke, the chaplains and the wing commanders dedicated the chapel to glorifying God, honoring Airmen and serving all, the new Air Force Chaplain Service's vision statement.

## TMO tidbits

### Briefing required for PPM

Personnel who plan to perform a Personal Property/household goods move should keep in mind the following:

"Members who do not attend a TMO briefing prior to making a PPM move will not be authorized an incentive payment. Members who elect to do so will run into major difficulties in attempting to finalize any paperwork at destination without paperwork from the origin TME."

For more information, call 6-5499. Students (coursework less than 20 weeks) must contact the Student TME at 6-1082 or 4107.



### Time needed for TMO briefings

The Traffic Management Flight asks commanders and supervisors to please be advised of your responsibility to allow personnel sufficient time to receive counseling and to arrange for

shipment of personal property/household goods. LAW DOD Reg 4500.9R, Chap 401, Para D, 1, d; Public Law 101-189; and the National Defense Authorization Act 1991, Section 661.

Our office provides the carrier/agent enough time to schedule the member's request for shipment - we need your help in eliminating any foreseen inconveniences to our customers. Call 6-5499 for further information or questions. Once orders are in hand, it's never too early to arrange a personal property/household goods move.



### TMO office closure

The traffic management office in Bldg. 402, 551, N&N Travel and cargo movement will be closed Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Tax center to open soon

The tax center will open for business Monday in Bldg. 1121. The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday for active duty personnel, retirees, dependents and civil service employees. The hours for students and military training leaders is Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call 6-1981.

### NAF sale planned

The 82nd Services Division will have a non-appropriated fund sale Thursday. These sales will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sky Court in the Bunker Hill housing area.

### Tickets available for awards banquet

Personnel wanting to attend the 82nd Training Wing's Annual Awards Banquet should contact their first sergeant by Feb. 7.

Cost for club members is \$15.65 and \$17.65 for non-members. To purchase tickets, call 6-2610 or 6-6808.

### Mini-flight planned for 80th commander

Col. H.D. Polumbo, 80th Flying Training Wing commander, is planned to make his final flight Tuesday. The colonel will take off at about 3 p.m. and land and taxi to the "Texas 1" at about 4 p.m.

### NCMA to hold meeting Tuesday

Midwestern State University President Dr. Jesse Rogers will be

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# Chow time

New \$7.2 million dining facility serves 6,000 meals to students

By John Ingle  
Editor

When a football autographed by future Hall-of-Fame wide receiver Jerry Rice is seen in a glass-enclosed case, it's usually at some sort of sports or football museum.

But it became part of Sheppard Jan. 13 as it was unveiled as part of the sports-themed Mesquite Dining Facility located across the street from the North Chapel on Eighth Avenue.

The \$7.2 million dollar facility wasn't brought in with the traditional ribbon cutting ceremony. Rather, Col. Joseph Brown, acting 82nd Training Wing vice commander, and Gerald Bettenhausen, president of Work Services Corporation, cut a roughly 3-foot burrito in half to signify the grand opening of the dining hall.

Colonel Brown said the opening of the building was a "little while in the making," but it was one in a number of steps to move forward to improve the dining and living quarter for Sheppard students.

"The bottom line is we are taking care of our troops, taking care of Team Sheppard and taking care of our Air Force," he said.

The facility highlights local and national sports, including an autographed jersey from the Wichita Falls Wildcats, the city's North American Hockey League franchise. The team was on hand to unveil the dis-



Photo by Sandy Wasserman

Sheppard students now have a new place to chow down with the grand opening of the Mesquite Dining Facility on Eighth Avenue. Service began Jan. 4, but the official opening was Jan. 13 when Col. Joseph Brown, acting 82nd Training Wing vice commander, and Gerald Bettenhausen, president of Work Services Corporation, cut a 3-foot burrito instead of a ribbon.

played jersey with Colonel Brown.

Other items in the dining facility include autographed footballs from former New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath and Joe Gibbs, the

Hall of Fame football coach of the Washington Redskins.

The facility will serve close to 6,000 meals per day, an average 1,500 per meal time. Meals will be served at midnight, breakfast, lunch and din-

ner.

Construction on the project began in October 2003 by Roy A. Anderson Construction Company out of Gulfport, Miss. The first meal was served Jan. 4.

# Director of new AETC office visits Sheppard

By John Ingle  
Editor

The director Air Education and Training Command's International Training and Education office toured Sheppard Wednesday to get a grasp of how the base conducts business.

Gerald Hust, the director of AETC/IA, visited the 82nd Training Wing International Military Student Office, the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program at the 80th Flying Training Wing and several training squadrons within the 82nd TRW.

The purpose of the new directorate is to coordinate and implement international training policy and to ensure the active-duty, Reserve and Guard international training units not only have a conduit to the AETC Commander Gen. Don Cook, but also to have the budget, resources and manning to do their jobs.

Mr. Hust, a retired colonel with extensive international experience, said it's important to place an emphasis on training and education with our international partners to develop a cohesive, interoperable coalition that supports global security efforts.

"Building long-term relationships has never been more important," he said, citing current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Hust's office, which officially began business Sept. 20, has already made a difference. An example of that is right here at ENJPT.

Col. Paul Walker, the deputy director of AETC/IA, is now a member on the ENJPT policy sub-committee. This allows



Hust

AETC to help guide the future of the program and assist in the 80th FTW commander's ability to do his mission.

The Air Force trains about 4,500 international students annually with last year's cost tallied at about \$330 million. With rising training costs, Mr. Hust said he set a vision for the U.S. to continue being the world's first choice for international training by focusing on cost, creative training solutions and customer satisfaction.

Sheppard is conducting business the right way, Mr. Hust said, pointing out the accomplishments of the IMSO office.

"The IMSO office is usually the first and last thing international students see," he said. "It's the first and last impression they see, (too)."

Mr. Hust gained valuable international experience while fulfilling assignments at bases in England, Germany, Honduras, Portugal and Singapore.

## T-37

Continued from Page 1

Flying Training Wing commander, in a press conference Tuesday said thoughts of the Mr. Nash's family is on his mind.

"The men and women of Sheppard Air Force Base, and the 80th Flying Training Wing especially, send our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased pilot," he said.

A Sheppard emergency team responded to the site, along with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Tillman County Sheriff Department and fire department.

"Currently, we have begun our investigation here on Sheppard Air Force Base to discover the facts of the mishap," Colonel Polunin said. "We're going to work in conjunction with the National Transportation and Safety Board to look into the facts."

The cause of the accident is still under investigation. The accident investigation board and the National Transportation and Safety Board have not put a timeline on when the investigation will be complete.

The Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program incorporates the Cessna Aircraft Co. twin-engine T-37 Tweet into its

training. The instructor and student pilots sit side by side and the cockpit has dual controls.

The T-37 made its first flight in 1955 and became a part of the Air Force's fleet in 1956. It can reach speeds up to 360 mph. Its wingspan reaches 33 feet, 8 inches. Cessna built more than 1,000 T-37s, but only 419 remain in the Air Force inventory.

According to their Web site, Air Tractor, Inc. has sold more than 400 AT-502s since the model's creation in 1987. A Pratt & Whitney turboprop engine powers the crop duster. Its wingspan reaches 52 feet.

This was the second aircraft mishap involving a Sheppard aircraft in 15 months. A T-38A crashed on "take off roll" and was attributed to pilot error.

The last time a T-37 was involved in a mishap was Dec. 21, 2002, during a training mission over Comanche, Okla. The pilots in one aircraft ejected safely while the other aircraft successfully completed an emergency landing.

The last fatality involving a Sheppard aircraft was Aug. 24, 2001, when two T-38s collided near Crowell, Texas, in nearby Foard County. An Italian pilot was killed in the incident.

## AT-502B



Courtesy of Air Tractor, Inc.

The AT-502 series has been the No. 1 seller for Air Tractor, Inc., based in Olney, Texas. The aircraft features a Pratt & Whitney P76A-15PG turboprop engine that can reach 680 horsepower at 2,200 rpm. The B model features an increased wingspan of 52-feet. The added length to the wings increases the rate of climb, speed at gross weight and the swath width.

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# CSAF qualifies in F/A-22

By 2nd Lt. William Powell  
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AETCNS) – Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper ended two weeks of training here Jan. 12, flying his final qualification flight in the F/A-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft.

"I've been involved with the Raptor program for years, in one way or another," General Jumper said. "Now, to be able to fly it and see all that it does firsthand is quite remarkable. The Raptor does everything we had hoped it would do, plus some."

To qualify, the general completed more than 50 hours in aircraft systems and avionics academics, received stealth tactics training emphasizing integrated avionics and super cruise technology, and completed five simulator sessions and three Raptor flights.

"There are no two-seat versions of this airplane, so the instructors couldn't be kind to me because I'm the chief of staff," he said. The general learned everything all F/A-22 pilot must learn including how to deal with emergency situations.

The general said it is necessary for him to be qualified to know firsthand what the aircraft can do and better understand how to employ it. The Air Force plans to use the jet as a multi-

role fighter aircraft to combat anything—anywhere airspace is contested.

"Every air force in the world is trying to figure out how to beat our Air Force," General Jumper said. One of the ways to do that is through advanced surface-to-air missile systems.

According to General Jumper, the Russians have built next-generation surface-to-air missiles that many nations in the world are now adding to their inventory. "The Raptor has the ability to dominate that airspace. So, it is not too early to get the Raptor out there," he said.

The general said the Raptor will also ensure the safety of U.S. pilots against advanced adversary aircraft.

"The Russians never got out of the fighter-building business. They are delivering aircraft to nations around the world that outperforms anything else we have, except the Raptor," the general said.

Beyond the battles in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force has to plan for what it might be up against 30 years from now, the general said. Some F-15s on the ramp today are 25-years-old or older and are becoming outdated.

The Raptor is an air dominance airplane that has air-to-ground capability, can take out surface-to-air missile systems that no other airplane can and is



U.S. Air Force photo by Lisa Norman

Staff Sgt. Jonathon Tringali helps Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper prepare to fly an F/A-22 Raptor, the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft, Jan. 12 at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The Raptor makes the ninth Air Force aircraft type the general has flown.

able to deal with emerging threats like cruise missiles, he said.

"We're trying to replace more than 800 air planes with the right number of Raptors, which we think is 381," General Jumper said. The Raptor can do the job not only of the F-15C, but also the F-15E Strike Eagle and the F-117 Nighthawk, replacing virtually three types of airplanes with a fleet less than

half its former size.

"Today I flew the Raptor at speeds exceeding 1.7 Mach without afterburners," General Jumper said. "To be able to go that fast without afterburners means that nobody can get you in their sights or get a lock-on. The aircraft's impressive stealth capability combined with its super cruise (capability) will give any adversary a very hard time."

## KING

Continued from Page 1

Squadron, did a liturgical dance.

"This is a time to remember what Doctor King and others like him lived through to better this nation," said Andre Hollis, guest speaker at the breakfast. "But we need to remember to challenge and continue to educate younger generations about what Doctor King did."

The former deputy assistant secretary of defense for counter narcotics officials also acknowledged the blessings this generation and every generation that follows has because they don't have to face the challenges of yesterday.

He charged the audience to teach tolerance and love through positive reinforcement, positive support and quiet diplomacy.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jacque Lickling

Senior Airman Sidney Mitchell of the 82nd Medical Support Squadron plays a gospel medley on his saxophone during the 2005 Rev. (Dr.) Martin Luther King Jr. Celebratory Breakfast at the officers club Jan. 14.

*Nonviolence is absolute commitment to the way of love.*

—The Rev. (Dr.) Martin Luther King Jr.

## ROCHE

Continued from Page 1

for his "out of the box" thinking, using the Air Force in a new combat role with the Army and for instilling unique improvements in education for enlisted Airmen.

The secretary was appointed in 2001 and has been responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training, equipping, and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 Airmen on active duty, 180,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen, 160,000 civilians and their

families.

Secretary Roche spoke of leadership lessons he learned in his earlier Naval career from Navy Adms. Arleigh Burke and Hyman Rickover in solving complex problems, and how those lessons have stood the test of time. The secretary closed by emotionally reading a verse from the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." The alternate verse, which begins, "Lord guard and guide the men who fly," was written by Mary C. D. Hamilton in 1915.



## FLU

Continued from Page 1

doses of the vaccine in storage, officials said.

A major vaccine provider to the United States had announced in October that its vaccine was defective. DOD officials then directed that service-members being deployed overseas and other eligible recipients at potential high risk to the flu, including seniors and the very young, receive priority to get flu vaccinations.

Vaccination against the flu remains mandatory "for servicemembers whose command has vaccine available to them," officials said.

Yet, a relatively benign flu season thus far and sparse turnouts for vaccination by those at high risk to the flu seem to have mitigated an expected vaccine shortage.

Many in high-risk groups seem to have chosen not to obtain a flu vaccine this year. "They saw news accounts of long lines and felt it wasn't worth the hassle," a DOD official said. Consequently, DOD "still has a lot of flu vaccine."

DOD will dispense this year's stored flu vaccine rather than letting it go to waste. Flu vaccines are developed to target specific virus strains expected only for that particular season. This year's flu season is expected



Photo by John Ingde

Sheppard and the Department of Defense have expanded the use of flu shots to family members and retirees. Because of a shortage in the serum, the vaccine was initially administered to high-risk personnel only.

ed to peak sometime in February, officials said.

Vaccination against the flu "is the best way to protect yourself and your family from influenza," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director.

Dr. Gerberding said that "late-season vaccination is effective" against the flu. She urged unvaccinated people at risk to try once again to obtain a shot.

Gerry J. Gilmore of American Forces Press Service contributed to this story.





Photos by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

UTAPAO, Thailand — Senior Airman Shawn McDonald, Staff Sgt. James Kim and Senior Airman Gilbert Carter — set up their network system during tsunami relief operations here. The Airmen are deployed from the 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan. They provide communications support, such as telephones and Internet service, to deployed troops here.

# GLOBAL REACH

## Kadena Airmen ensure link to the world

By Master Sgt. Val Gempis  
*Air Force Print News*

UTAPAO, Thailand (AFPN) — Although they are not in the thick of things handing out food and supplies, Airmen from the 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, said that the parade of huge lumbering aircraft that come and go from here, only validates how their mission affects the success of relief operations.

The 22-person “comm” team ensures that the command staff here has the proper tools to coordinate relief operations stretching from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other parts of Asia.

“Our job is to provide an outside link for the deployed joint forces. We’re very excited to help,” said Capt. Robert Bonner, commander of the deployed unit.

The group provides telephone service, computer, fax, e-mail and Internet support.

They also have a 24-hour help desk for those who need help.

The Airmen said without comm. relief operations here would grind to a halt.

The Airmen brought seven pallets that held 30,000 pounds of equipment, including satellite dish and tents.

Captain Bonner said the equipment provides a state-of-

the-art, ground-to-ground communications infrastructure that transmits and receives voice, data and video communications securely to or from wireless, mobile and modular, and it can be moved anywhere in the world for military contingencies.

The system is also both mobile and modular, and it can be moved anywhere in the world for military contingencies. And although the Airmen have used the equipment during exercises, they have never deployed with it on a real-world mission.

Upon arrival, the technicians started setting up their gear. Master Sgt. Zachary Wilson, the team’s noncommissioned officer in charge, said that within a day they had telephone and data connectivity.

“We got voice circuit up faster than I’ve ever seen,” Captain Bonner said.

But there were problems along the way.

First, the heat caused generators to overload. Power would shut off, causing servers to crash.

Another challenge was space. Because some of their equipment had not arrived yet, the Airmen were jammed elbow-to-elbow inside a small trailer.

“We were packed so tight we couldn’t even move. But we came up with creative solutions, and soon everything just worked out great,” Sergeant Wilson said.

## SAYING THANK YOU Army Vice Chief of Staff tours Red River Army Depot, appreciates workers

By Army Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser

Office of the Chief of Public Affairs

TEXARKANA, Texas — Red River Army Depot is one of six sites producing armor survivability kits for high-mobility, multi-wheeled vehicles and the Army's vice chief visited there Jan. 14 to thank employees.

The depot also recycles Humvees in a process called recapitalization, refurbishes heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks and is the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for tactical wheeled vehicles, small emplacement excavators, Bradley tanks, Patriot missile recertification and rubber products in support of U.S. and allied forces.

With the war on terrorism and the demand for more, better-made vehicles, the employees at this depot work around the clock to meet the demands of commanders in theater.

"I want to thank this generation of workers," said Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody to the media during his visit to the depot Jan. 14. "(At the Pentagon) you can't see the production rate without seeing the faces of these people working three shifts to get the job done. They have the right priorities and are producing high quality products."

He shared stories from his November trip to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"I saw the look on troops' faces as they got the add-on

armor kits," Cody said. "It came from Red River Depot and they know that Red River cares about them."

While touring the facility, Cody met Joe Clayborn, who has put in seven years of service at the depot. Clayborn, a Vietnam War veteran, has a son in the 502nd Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky., who recently returned from a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"(Clayborn) knows his son is safe," Cody told the employees of Red River Army Depot. "But he also knows that there are Soldiers still on the line depending on him and all of you to produce the best products."

Sean Perry, another Army veteran who works at the depot as a grade eight mechanic, agrees with Cody.

"Everything we do here affects the Soldier when in war and when not in war," Perry said. "What we do here makes (the Soldiers) do their job properly."

The Red River Army Depot is the Army's only road wheel and track-shoe rebuild and manufacture facility and it's the Defense Department's only facility to recertify Patriot and Hawk missiles systems.

"The most important thing for combat commanders in the fight is not to stop," said depot commander Col. Michael Cervone. "With reliable equipment in the field, the commander won't have to stop. There is no greater risk than faulty equipment."

Teams from Red River Army Depot set up a mini depot in Kuwait when Operation Iraqi Freedom began, giving Soldiers a quick turn-around in repairs.

"It's more than a paycheck

for these workers," Cody told the media in a press conference at the depot. "They know every minute counts. They know that everything they're building here is saving lives."



By Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody gets a tour of the Bradley manufacturing division at Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas.



By Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody looks at the finished uparmor kits produced by the employees at Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas.



Santa has a new name  
Team Shepard and its members

**By Master Sgt. Donald Bullock**  
373rd Training Squadron

I recently received a letter from a gentleman in my hometown of McComb, Miss., thanking me for the recent delivery of several bicycles for distribution to needy children.

I would like to share this letter with everyone to say thanks for your generosity in making this possible.

First, I would like to tell how this all came about.

A few years ago, I was home on leave for the holidays and my father-in-law went with me to see a gentleman named Knead Branch.

This meeting enlightened me as to what impact a church can have on a community.

Mr. Branch gave me a tour of his quaint workshop where he and members of the Pisgah United Methodist Church gathered to repair bicycles. After they repair the bicycles, they distributed them across the entire state of Mississippi.

I found it amazing the work these individuals accomplish with the little resources available to complete this task.

Ever since the chance meeting with Mr. Branch, Tech. Sgt. Titus Lindsay and myself have taken on the task of gathering and delivering as many bicycles to Mr. Branch for distribution to the needy children of my hometown and state.

As promised here is the letter written by Mr. Knead Branch:

*"Santa Claus came to our house and brought several needy children bicycles that I can easily repair. Dot (wife) and I were sick during the Christmas holidays.*

*We are a little better but not completely over it. Again on behalf of Pisgah Men's Church, the Salvation Army and any other needy child, I want to say "Thank You".*

*"A Very Special Thank You" and to all the other Christian families that help make this possible.*

*We pray that your family and friends will be*

*blest with health and happiness in 2005."*

Thanks Again,  
Knead Branch

Team Sheppard, I would like to say thanks again for your donations to make this possible for the ones who need it the most.

Just think, the items you normally leave behind during a DITTY move (normally bicycles) always have value to those who don't have them.

Unfortunately, duty has called and I am PCSing in June.

If anybody's hometown is McComb or Summit, Miss. and would like to take over what I have started, please let me know.

Glad to be a part of...  
America at its best!

**By Colonel Michael Boera**  
374 Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander

At various times throughout my 23 years in the U.S. Air Force, I have taken the opportunity to write articles for my hometown newspaper in Vermont for my family and friends to read and for home base newspapers where I've been assigned.

My editorials included my personal thanks for the support I received during Desert Storm, my perspective of combat air operations over Northern Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort, and my heartfelt thoughts after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America.

Today, I write you from Royal Thai Naval Air Station Utaapao here where I am deployed in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the humanitarian relief mission to support of the tsunami victims in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

I have made a livelihood of flying F-16 Fighting Falcon combat aircraft and am currently assigned as the 35th Operations Group commander at Misawa Air Base,

Japan. A couple of weeks ago, I was preparing to fly a local combat training mission when I received a call from my boss. I was basically told to get some shots and pack my bags because I was being sent to Thailand to help stand up the 374 Air Expeditionary Wing. About 24 hours later, I was landing at Utaapao airfield.

The mission of the wing is to provide support to the intra-theater airlift units, mostly flying C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters, sprinkled around workable airfields in the affected countries. We are the Air Force piece of Combined Support Force 536, commanded by a U.S. Marine lieutenant general. I have never been involved in a humanitarian relief effort and now I am involved in one rivaling any of my relief effort -- ever!

I has been my honor to serve in such an operation. As much as I miss being away from my family and flying the F-16, it gives me great satisfaction to be involved in a relief and recovery operation versus the typical combat operation I am so

familiar with, and which usually involves some sort of destruction. This is America at its best!

It is also the America that doesn't make the headlines very often, or the lead story on our top TV news stations' telecasts. In fact, this relief operation is probably not the lead story in the United States any longer.

Please keep in mind, the mission continues...

Obviously, I am involved with the U.S. military aspect of the mission. We are but one piece of the puzzle to bring much-needed disaster relief to the victims, but a significant piece at this stage of the effort.

Gradually, we will let civilian governmental and non-governmental organizations take over the bulk of the effort and most of will return to our home stations.

When I do, I hope to pick up where I left off; say "hello" to the family and get back in the cockpit of an F-16 to once again train for combat operations.

Until then, I am proud to be a part of this relief mission. It is America at its best!

What is Liturgical Worship?

**Chaplain explains different style of worship**  
**By Chap. (Capt.) Kristina Coppinger**  
82nd Training Wing Chapel Division

Most Air Force Bases provide a Liturgical Service as part of scheduled Sunday worship. And although a familiar term in years past, I am finding out it is not true today.

So, just what is Protestant Liturgical worship? Liturgical worship has some to do with a particular style of worship, but more to do with trying to convey a spiritual understanding through movement from one part of the liturgy to the next.

We begin with quiet meditation as a means of focusing on who God is and who we are and what does this mean for our relationship. We then move to confession of our sins and the separation they cause between us and God.

However, we do not remain here, for through the absolution of our sins the minister reminds us of the forgiveness we can have through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, thus restoring us to a right relationship with God. In this new state we once again praise God through song, mostly traditional hymns although some praise music is used.

Adoring and praising God, we then seek to learn more about Him and our own responsibilities as members of His body, the church. We do this through the reading of scripture and preaching.

Realizing that there is no way we can live godly lives on our

own, we first restate our understanding of the church's statement of belief -- The Apostles' and/or the Nicene Creeds -- and pray for God's help for ourselves and others. Having done this, we present tokens of our thankfulness through the offering and then join in the celebratory feast at the Lord's Table (altar).

With thanksgiving we remember what God did and in faith we trust in what God is doing in the meal itself, strengthening us for service in the world about us. Having been fed mentally, physically and spiritually we depart in peace to love and serve the world.

Saying this, I must also state that because the Liturgical service is made up of those Protestants who are, to some degree, sacramentalists such as Anglicans, Lutherans, Presbyterians, some Methodists and others, there is some slight variation depending upon the make-up of the congregation. A sacramentalist is one who holds a high view of the sacraments.

Most Protestant Liturgical churches hold baptism to be a once-for-all-for-life sacrament of initiation into the church and Holy Communion (Eucharist) as a repeatable sacrament of consolation and growth.

The Liturgical Service meets at the Solid Rock Cafe in Bldg. 450 on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Avenue H each Sundays at 10:30 a.m. We welcome you to be part of our fellowship.

If you would like to find out more, we will be holding Episcopal, Lutheran and Presbyterian Inquirers/Confirmation classes beginning in the spring.



Safety office gives space heater tips

**By Gary Brown**  
82nd TRW Safety Office

When used correctly, auxiliary heating devices such as space heaters can make a cold room comfortable. Used incorrectly, they can turn your house into a job for a claims adjuster.

To avoid the latter, take the following steps:

Make sure the space heater includes a tip-over switch that shuts it off automatically if it accidentally turns over.

Make sure the heater has an element guard that prevents little fingers from straying onto hot coils.

Keep space heaters off of carpeting and at least three feet from draperies, blankets, sofas and other such potential tinder.

Do not go to sleep or leave the heater unattended without turning it to low, or better yet, off.

Sheppard AFB Instruction 32-2001 para 5.7.2 states:

Auxiliary heating devices such as

space heaters are prohibited, except for medical reasons or where adequate heating is not provided by other means. The requester's supervisor shall obtain the SAFB Form 17, Space Heater Request, and forward the request to the appropriate Civil Engineering Area Maintenance Unit. The Basic Energy Manager will send completed form to Fire Prevention Office for guidance and coordination.

If authorized, space heaters shall meet the following requirements:

Space heaters will be UL or FM listed, self-contained, electrically powered, enclosed units equipped with a tip-over switch for automatic shut-off.

Space heaters will be given at least 36 inches of clearance when in use.

Space heaters will be unplugged when left unattended.

Space heaters to be used in a hazardous environment shall meet safety standards for the environment on a case-by-case basis as determined through a special inspection by the fire department.



**Sheppard Senator**  
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Submit your questions and concerns to action.line@sheppard.af.mil or call 6-2000. Your submission may be printed in The Sheppard Senator

**Want to quit smoking?**

Contact the health and wellness center at 6-4292 about their smoking cessation classes.

## Clever captions



No. 22

**Compete to see your funny caption for photo No. 22 in next week's Sheppard Senator.**

### Here's how

1. Write an imaginative, humorous caption for photo No. 22.
2. Submit a maximum of two entries to [sheppardsenatord@sheppard.af.mil](mailto:sheppardsenatord@sheppard.af.mil) or call 6-7246 by Tuesday at noon.
3. Please include the photo number, your name and phone number.
4. The winning caption will be printed in the *Sheppard Senator*.
5. All entries are judged by the *Senator* staff. Good luck!



No. 21's winning entry: "Whoa! Easy there big fella, it's not your turn." by Leslie Cox, military spouse  
 Runner up: "Next time I get to steer!" by Master Sgt. Robert Lacy, 80th FTW

## Sheppard Spotlight

### 15 lines of fame

1. **Name:** Gary Oldenburger
2. **Rank:** first lieutenant
3. **Organization and position:** 82nd Mission Support Group resources flight commander
4. **Most rewarding aspect of your job:** I get to work with a lot of different, really great people and I get to see how my work benefits the mission.
5. **Why did you join the Air Force?** Because I want the world to be a fair and safe place for my children. I don't want some other country's tanks rolling down the streets of my town.
6. **Favorite Air Force assignment:** Aviano Air Base, Italy
7. **Date arrived at Sheppard:** Jan. 15, 2003
8. **Hometown:** Des Moines, Iowa
9. **Married or single (include your family if you'd like):** Married to my wonderful wife, LeAnn. We have six children, Faith, Adrian, Miranda, Dylan, Alessandra and Mirabella; ages 9 months to almost 9 years.
10. **Favorite thing(s) to do in your free time:** Traveling with my family, working in the yard.
11. **Funniest childhood memory:** When I was about nine, my sister and I wanted to go visit my aunt in the next town. So we

rode our bikes about ten miles down the highway and then found out that she was out of town for the weekend. Plus we got in big trouble for that little stunt...but it was all my sister's idea.

12. **Favorite book or movie:** We Were Soldiers Once...and Young

13. **Dream vacation:** Disney World

14. **If you could be anyone for one day, who would you be?** Anyone stationed in USAFE.

15. **Other than your family, what is your most prized possession?** I'm a Comm guy, so I like my new computer I got for Christmas.



Movie line: 676-4427

**Ocean's Twelve (PG-13)**

TODAY: 6:30 P.M.  
 SATURDAY: 4:30 P.M.

Starring:  
 George Clooney,  
 Julia Roberts.



**Flight of the Phoenix (PG-13)**

TODAY: 9 P.M., SATURDAY: 7 P.M., SUNDAY: 4:30 P.M., THURSDAY: 7 P.M.

Starring: Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi.



**Blade: Trinity (R)**  
 SUNDAY: 2 P.M.



Starring Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson.

**Closer (R)**  
 SUNDAY: 2 P.M.

STARRING: Julia Roberts, Jude Law



## SHEPPARD EVENTS

### Chapel schedule

**Catholic services**  
*Confessions are at 4 p.m.  
 Sundays at the south chapel.*

#### Sunday

Mass: 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the south chapel; noon at the Solid Rock Cafe.

#### Daily Mass

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 11:30 a.m. (south chapel)

**Protestant services Sunday**  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Protestant Worship Service (Bldg. 1900)

10:30 a.m. Gospel Worship Service (south chapel)  
 10:30 a.m. Liturgical Protestant Worship Service (Solid Rock Cafe)

**Protestant Parish Ministries**

Protestant Men of the Chapel: Saturday, 6:30 a.m. (south chapel)  
 Weekday Bible studies:

Tuesday, 6 p.m. and Thursday, noon, (south chapel)

**Protestant religious education**

Adult religious education, 9 a.m. (Bldg. 962)

Tuesday Bible study, 6 p.m. (south chapel)

Thursday, noon Bible Study; lunch provided (south chapel). PWOC

Thursday Bible study, 6 p.m. PMOC

Tuesday Bible study, 6 a.m. For more information, call the

base chapel at 6-4370.

### Student ministry

**Solid Rock Cafe (Bldg. 450)**  
 Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, 11 to 11:30 p.m. Sunday, 10 to 9:30 p.m.

Sunday Protestant Bible study, 4 p.m.  
 Student Contemporary

Worship Service, 5 p.m.  
 Liturgical Protestant Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.  
 Praise and Prayer, Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Students Awaiting Training classes, Tuesday and Thursday, 8:15 to 10 a.m.

Chapel Ropes Meeting, Tuesday, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Parents and Tots, Monday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, 10 to 11 a.m.

For more information, call the base chapel at 6-4370.

### Valentine's day dinner

The officers club will serve Valentine's Day dinner Feb. 14 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
 The cost is \$50 per couple, and there will be limited seating.

To make reservations, call 6-6460.

For menu options, call 6-6460.





## Lackland slips by Dyess 71-69 to win MLK tournament

### Warhawks overcome near meltdown en route to championship

By Master Sgt. Jeff Szczecowski  
82nd Training Wing public affairs

In an exciting finale to the annual men's Martin Luther King Jr. basketball championships here, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, held off Dyess AFB, Texas, to capture its second MLK tournament title in the last five years.

Lackland's Warhawks advanced to the finals by sweeping through the winner's bracket with a 4-0 record, including a tough 71-69 victory over Dyess on Sunday. The Bombers made it to the finals by going 4-1 to advance through the loser's bracket.

When the teams tipped off on

Monday, Lackland needed just one victory to win the title, while Dyess would have to win two games in a row. Dyess pushed Lackland to the limit, beating them in the opener, 80-72, then losing to them by 2 points for the second time in the tournament, 72-70, in the decisive final game.

Before the first game on Monday, Lackland coach Jerome Riley stressed that defense was the key to his team's success.

"We have to play good defense," he said, "Dyess shoots the ball well, and they're very good athletes. The offense will come, but we have to play good defense."

On the Dyess side, Coach Bobby Winford said that eliminating turnovers and improving at the free throw line were important to his team's chances for victory. He also said that Lackland was a more experienced team, one that doesn't make

mistakes down the stretch when a game gets tight, and that Dyess would have to execute just as well.

In the opening half of the first game, Dyess controlled the first 10:00 and Lackland took charge during the last 10:00. After Lackland's Kendrick Monson scored the game's first two points, Dyess went on a 9-2 run, taking an 11-4 lead. They remained ahead until Joel Bledsoe, who led Lackland with 20 points, knotted the game at 18-18 on a hard drive to the basket right at the 10:00 mark. Lackland then took the lead on two free throws by eventual tournament MVP Michael Jones, ultimately stretching the margin to 38-33 at halftime.

In the opening minutes of the second half, it looked like the bigger, more physical Lackland team was

See MLK, Page 3B



Photo by Lou Anne Sledge

Warhawks guard James Williams shoots past a group of Bombers defenders. The Warhawks beat the Bombers to win the Martin Luther King Jr. tournament Monday at the south fitness center.

## Sports Briefing

### Fitness 101/Circuit training

The Fitness 101/Circuit Training class is at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31 at the main fitness center.

This is an instructional class for all personnel to learn more about fitness and cardiovascular programs.

Call Billy Irions for more information at 6-0485.

### 10,000 steps walking program

The 10,000 steps walking program is at 11 a.m. Jan. 28 at the main fitness center. Walking everyday improves health and fitness. It has been proven that 10,000 steps per day equals 30 minutes of moderate cardiovascular exercise and reduces cardiovascular disease as much as 30 percent.

Call Billy Irions at 6-0485 for more information.

### Proper PT uniform wear

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force has approved policy for wear of the official physical training uniform at all organized PT functions.

The mandatory wear date will be established at a later date.

Any combination of PT uniform items may be worn together but can't be worn with any civilian clothing.

■ **T-shirt:** It must be worn tucked into shorts.

People may wear the short or long-sleeve style Air Force shirt.

■ **Warm-up suit:** When the jacket is worn, it must be zipped up at least halfway.

The hood will be stored and zipped when not worn.

The pants, when worn, must be zipped at the legs.

■ **PT shorts:** Spandex shorts and leggings may be worn under PT shorts. During cold weather periods, full-length leggings can be worn.

■ **Socks and shoes:** Ankle or calf-length socks must be worn. Small, conservative trademarked logos may be worn on socks.

Shoes must be a conservative color like white, black or dark blue.

■ **Hats:** Hats aren't required when performing PT activities.

■ **Saluting:** Saluting is not required when performing PT activities.

Saluting is required, though, if people meet and are displaying appropriate rank and are not participating in PT activities.

■ **Hair:** Hair must be neat and not allowed to hang loose below the collar. It should be tied back. The mandatory wear date will be determined once sufficient supplies are available.

Uniforms will be available for purchase in military clothing sales stores.

## Sweet revenge

### Lady Bombers knock out Lady Hawks for MLK women's championship

By John Ingle  
Editor

A little bit of the "Golden Rule" was in play here Sunday morning during the 12 Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament as the Lady Bombers did unto Barksdale last year.

During the 2003 tournament, the team from Tinker knocked the Barksdale ladies out of the tournament. But, the Lady Bombers did not Barksdale last year.

The Lady Bombers led throughout the game, but never seemed to be able to put the Lady Hawks down.

A 16-2 run in the midway through the second put the game out of reach and the championship trophy in the Barksdale team's hands.

Leading 40-37, forward Tyiesha Robinson nailed a three-pointer from the top of the key, followed by another triple by guard Vonshwa Abramson. Forward Brandi Green showed her prowess under the board, grabbing an offensive rebound and score that put the Lady Bombers up 49-39 at the 8:30 mark.

Green forced Lady Hawks coach Carlos Hopkins to take a time out with 6:36 left in the game to stop the momentum built up by Barksdale.

Hopkins said his team played with heart and determination despite having only seven players making the trip. He added the team recently went to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and won the tournament with seven players.

"We came to play basketball," he said, "When my team comes to play basketball, we don't hold our heads down."

Barksdale continued to build onto their double-digit lead in the second half, finally tipping out at a 23-point advantage, 64-41.

The Lady Hawks didn't make it an easy game for the Lady Bombers. The ladies went into the locker room trailing 29-22.

An early surge by the Lady Bombers was matched by a Tinker surge as the Lady Hawks pulled within two points, 34-32, led by forward Kaiti Smith's four points and Nikita Jeffrey's five



Photo by Lou Anne Sledge

A Barksdale Lady Bomber shoots a jumper over a Tinker Lady Hawk during the women's championships at the Martin Luther King basketball tournament Monday at the south fitness center. The Lady Bombers beat the Lady Hawks 66-47 to win the tournament.

points. Barksdale coach Kory Gibson called a quick timeout to stop Tinker's flow and refocus his team.

"We needed to play Lady Bombers basketball," the coach said, adding the Tinker team was dictating the flow of the game. "Once we got kick started, we

started to play (our style) of basketball."

Gibson said he was surprised at the composure his team showed toward a "very tough and well coached" Tinker team.

"Tinker usually gives us a good game," he said. "They bring out the best in us and I think we do the same."

## AF Falcons sneak by Lobos, 64-62

Courtesy of the Air Force Academy

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Nick Welch scored 19 points and Air Force won its 22nd straight home game, beating New Mexico 64-62 Saturday despite grabbing just nine rebounds and allowing the Lobos to shoot nearly 70 percent.

Air Force (11-6, 2-0 Mountain West) couldn't stop the Lobos from hitting shots and had trouble getting inside for rebounds, making up for it by harassing the Lobos into 23 turnovers — 16 on steals — that led to 31 points.

New Mexico (14-3, 1-1) shot a staggering 69 percent, had just three players — Troy DeVries, Mark Walters and Alfred Neale — miss shots, and had a 28-9 rebounding advantage. It still wasn't enough to prevent the Lobos' 20th straight conference road loss.

Even with the mistakes, New Mexico still had a chance at the end.

The Lobos got within three on DeVries' layup two minutes into the second half, then went more than six minutes without a field goal as Air Force pushed the lead to 45-36. New Mexico got close again, fell behind by 12, then made a late 13-2 run, taking a 58-57 lead on Neale's 3-pointer with 46 seconds left.

Air Force took the lead right back with 29 seconds left, when Welch powered inside for a three-point play that made it 60-58. New Mexico never got a chance to get it back.

McCrack snared another sloppy crossover pass by the Lobos and hit two free throws with 21 seconds left to put the Falcons up four, then Welch hit two free throws after David Chioiti scored at the other end.

Chioiti led New Mexico with 17 points and Neale added 15.

New Mexico played without top scorer and rebounder Danny Granger, who

had surgery Monday to repair torn cartilage in his left knee.

The Lobos didn't seem to miss him much in the first half.

New Mexico set a torrid pace at the start, scoring from the post, the perimeter, everywhere. By the time they were done, the Lobos had hit 13-of-16 shots (81 percent) and had an 11-1 rebounding advantage.

It still wasn't good enough to give them the halftime lead.

Air Force took a different tact, working the ball around the perimeter and out of the high post, and was pretty effective, too.

The Falcons shot 13-of-21 in the first half, including Tim Anderson's four-point play with seven minutes left, and led by as much as 12. It wasn't quite as good as New Mexico's start, but Air Force made up for it with scrappy defense, scoring 20 points off 13 turnovers for a 36-31 halftime lead.



Photo by Senior Airman Chris Powell  
A Sheppard Senator files by defenders in one of their games during the Martin Luther King basketball tournament Sunday at the south fitness center.

## Senators shoot blanks at MLK tournament

By Senior Airman Chris Powell  
Sports editor

The Senators and Lady Senators went to the Martin Luther King basketball tournament looking to win it all. Unfortunately, that's not what happened.

The men's team got an easy win in their first match because the Brooks team didn't show up to the tournament.

The rest of the teams weren't so kind.

Sheppard lost 75-73 against Ft. Sam Houston, but they were able to bounce back by beating Luke 57-47. In their next game, they lost 77-65 to Tinker. With their second loss, they were eliminated from the tournament.

"In our first loser bracket game, we executed flawlessly on offense and defense," Senators Coach Jordan said. "It was by far our best game as a team all season. It was clear that the team had refocused after the tough loss in the game the night before. It was also good to see the team recover so fast."

He said lack of execution was the biggest reason for his team's early exit.

"Overall the team played Sheppard basketball. We had flashes of brilliance and other times we did not execute," he said.

Even though the Senators didn't do as well as they hoped, there are still things they can build on.

"Our teamwork during big momentum shifts was really good," he said. "We hung in there as a team even when we were down. We never gave up playing."

See SENATORS,  
Page 2B

Basketball

For more information, call 6-2972.

Over-30 League			
Team	Won	Lost	GB
382 (B)	5	1	—
365 TRS	4	1	0.5
382 TRS	4	1	0.5
82 MDOS	4	2	1.0
82 SVS/MSS	4	2	1.0
80th FTW	3	3	2.0
360 TRS	2	3	2.5
82 SFS	1	4	3.5
364 TRS	1	5	4.0
362 TRS	0	6	5.0

Bowling

For more information, call 6-2170.

Combo bowling held every Thursday

Combo bowling will be held every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the south lanes.

For more information, call Donna Dobbins at 569-2430 or Vivian Umlah at 569-1619.

Rock It Bowl at the north lanes

Glow-in-the-dark Rock It Bowl takes place every Friday and Saturday night from 5 to 11 p.m. at the north lanes.

Bowling center birthday parties

The north and south bowling centers are available for birthday parties.

The cost is \$2 at the north lanes and \$1.50 at the south lanes.

The cost is more at the north lanes because it features Glow Bowling.

Feel free to bring your own cake and ice cream, but all drinks and other food must be purchased at the bowling center snack bar.

Community center

For more information, call 6-3866.

Jeet Kune Do classes

There are Jeet Kune Do classes from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sundays at the community activity center. Cost is \$35 per month.

Tang Soo Do classes

There are Tang Soo Do classes from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays for people ages 7 and older. Cost is \$25 for adult members and \$20 for children members. Cost for children who are nonmembers is \$25. Call 6-6826 for more information.

Pool tournament

The pool tournament is at 2 p.m. Saturday at the community activity center.

Trophies will be awarded to first

and second-place winners.

Table tennis tournament

The table tennis tournament is at 5 p.m. the second Saturday of every month. Cost is \$2.

Trophies will be awarded to first and second-place winners.

Chess tournament

The chess tournament is at 10 a.m. the last Saturday of every month.

Trophies will be awarded to first and second-place winners.

Fitness center

For more information, call 6-2972.

Kid's room

Parents can work out and watch their children at same time in the kid's room at the south fitness center.

Push it to the Max

Push it to the Max is a free program designed to teach people how to do correct push-ups and will improve push-up ability.

The program is from 5:30 to 7 a.m. Tuesdays in the aerobic room at the south fitness center.

Spinning at the south fitness center

Spinning classes are at 5 p.m. weekdays and at 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the south fitness center.

Aerobiccenter offers classes

The aerobiccenter, located in the main fitness center, offers coed aerobics classes seven days a week.

Abdominal class

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 a.m.

Cardio blast

Monday at 7:15 a.m.

Step aerobics

Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15 a.m.

Body pump

Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. Thursday and Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

Yoga and pilates

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m.

Basic step

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m. Sunday at 2 p.m.

Kickboxing

Tuesday and Thursday

at 7 p.m.

Sunday at 3 p.m.

Intermediate step

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:15 a.m. and Saturday at 11 a.m.

Advanced step

Monday and Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Combo step

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m.

TOPS

For more information, call 855-4308.

TOPS class

There is a Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class at 6 p.m. Thursdays in Bldg. 962.

Youth center

For more information, call 6-5395.

Fit For Fun 2005

The Fit For Fun 2005 program is designed to get children to participate in a more active lifestyle through rewards and recognition.

The program is every day for 9 to 18 year olds at the Madrigal youth center.

Be a good wingman. Watch out for your friends, and make sure they buckle up.

Track, field records fall at Air Force All-Comers Meet

Courtesy of the Air Force Academy

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) – The Air Force track and field team opened the 2005 season with an impressive showing at the All-Comers Meet Jan. 15.

The Falcons picked up seven first-place finishes in their season debut, including a win from Olivia Korte, who set a new Academy weight throw record in the process.

On the men's side, Air Force claimed top honors in three events, highlighted by the top-four sweep in the pole vault. Paul Gensic topped out at 17'3/4 to win the pole vault, while Makisi Haleck and Christian Morgan finished second and third, with respective heights of 16-6 3/4 and 15-7.

Jason Jones completed the sweep with a fourth-place height of 15-1.

In the lanes, Travis Picou won the 200-meter dash, clocking a time of 22.15 seconds – a debut shy of the program's top-10 list. And from the field, Rich Ellis won the weight throw with a toss of 49-4 1/4.

The women's pole vault also had a stellar performance when Erin Richardson set a new career-best height, clearing the bar at 11-5 3/4. Topping her previous best, Richardson moved closer to the academy record of 12 1/2 set in 2001.

Dominique Boivin won the shot put with a throw of 41-6 1/2, while Korte, who finished third in the shot, took top honors in the weight throw at 53-11 3/4, setting a new personal and academy record with the toss.

Korte led a sweep of the top-three spots in the weight throw, as Kristine Muth and Priscilla Giddings finished second and third, with marks of 48-1 1/4 and 46-7 1/4.

From the track, Dierra Poland won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.82 seconds -- just 0.01 off of her career-best time.

The Falcons men also picked up several top-three finishes, including Picou, who recorded a distance of 21-1 1/4 in the long jump to take third. Matt Pinson picked up second-place finishes in the shot put (42-0) and weight throw (39-8 1/2).

Nick Luina took third in the 400-meter dash, clocking a time of 49.73. Derek Storbek claimed third in the 3,000-meter run, with a time of 9 minutes 07.48 seconds.

A pair of Air Force 4X400-yard relay teams finished second and third in the event, as Erik Wallace, Brian Walsh, Morgan and Chris Gausepohl crossed the line at 3:30.41. Jonathan Myers, Billy Flynn, Bruce Fritz and Matt Gensic finished at 3:30.66.

SENATORS

Continued from Page 1B

While things didn't go so well for the men's team, the women's team didn't fair so well, either.

The Lady Senators were pushed 75-18 by the Barksdale Lady Bombers. Just like the men's team, they won their next game due to a forfeit by Brooks. The Lady Senators played a lot better when they played Luke, but it wasn't enough for the win, as they were eliminated with the 58-41 loss.

Lady Senators coach Brent Casey said lack of experience hurt the team.

"Experience is something that cannot be taught. We have many young people [on the team] that are still in technical training at Sheppard, and other teams show their experience against us," he said.

But just like the men's team, lack of execution was the Lady Senators' Achilles heel.

"If we can keep a solid team together, keep working on the basic fundamentals and make lay-ups during games, we will be a team that will compete with any women's team that attended the tournament," Coach Casey said. "This weekend's outcome wasn't other teams beating us, it was us beating ourselves."

The team, which was started Dec. 1, 2004, only has three players who began with the team. But Coach Casey said the future looks bright for the team if they can stick together.

"We have all the makings of a good team," he said. "Now we just have to keep what we have together and get things working the way we want them."

The Senators' next tournament is The Great Plains 2005 Shootout Invitational or the Ft. Sam Ranger Classic. The Lady Senators plan to play Tinker in the next few weeks.

Falcon women drop conference opener

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) – Despite leading 36-33 at the half, the Air Force Academy women's basketball team was unable to hold on for the upset over the University of New Mexico, falling 72-58, Jan. 15, to open the Mountain West Conference slate.

Early on, the Falcons seemed to have no memory of last year's 79-31 defeat in Albuquerque, getting out to a 14-0 start against the Lobos, Leticia Castillo, who went scoreless in last season's contest, hit a pair of three-point shots in the first two minutes of the game, to give the Falcons an 8-4 lead. New Mexico rattled off five straight points to take its first, and only, lead of the half at 9-8, before Air Force's Jennifer Roesch made a long-range shot of her own to put the Falcons back up on top.

Air Force shot 46.7 percent from the field and 60 percent from long range in the opening period, managing to fight off several New Mexico threats and hold on to a 36-33 lead at the half. Meanwhile, the Lobos shot just over 31 percent from the field, but hit 8-of-11 free throws to challenge for the lead.

The tables were turned in the second half. After a long-range shot by New Mexico's Julie Brindley tied the game at 38-38 with 18:40 on the clock, the Lobos resumed the lead with a basket by Dionne Marsh; however, Air Force's Alecia Steele scored four straight points to go back on top. The Falcons managed to lead 45-42 before New Mexico went on a 10-0 run to take over.

It was all New Mexico from that point on, as the Falcons were able to hit just 3-of-26 (.115) from the field to end the game. Meanwhile, the Lobos shot 45 percent in the second half, as they rolled to the 72-58 win.

Steele led the Falcons with 15 points, nine of which came from the free throw line, while Roesch added 10 points, all in the first half. Castillo finished with 9 points, while Lauren Henderson had 6 points, four rebounds and dished out eight assists without committing a turnover. In fact, the Falcons had just seven turnovers in the game, the lowest in Air Force's Division I history.

The Falcons return home for a pair of conference matches against the University of Utah and Brigham Young University. The Falcons took on the Utes Thursday and will face the Cougars Saturday.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reesta Clisler  
Spc. Joshua Miller, 1st "Stryker" Brigade, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash., tosses the game coin at the All-American Bowl Jan. 15, in San Antonio, Texas, while Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody (second from left) and Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey (fourth from left) watches. Miller represents Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom veterans and has received a Silver Star for his actions during combat in Iraq.

## All-American Bowl showcases values

Courtesy of the Army News Service

SAN ANTONIO – The Army sponsored the All-American Bowl Jan. 15, showcasing the talents of 78 high school football players, and senior Army leaders said there were many reasons to sponsor the event.

"Take a look at the young high school players from all walks of life and how they become all-Americans with teamwork, dedication and discipline – it's the same we look for in Army values," said Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody.

Cody and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston visited the various Army booths outside Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, before the game in which Team West beat the East 35 to 3.

"The Army has been sponsoring the event since 2001, pitting the best high school players in the East against the best in the West."

"It's part of our recruiting effort which showcases the Army," Preston said. "It gives us an opportunity to bring out displays to show the Americans what's the Army about."

The nationally watched game, which aired on NBC, took much planning and execution from the Army, especially Accessions Command.

"It demonstrates the confidence of the Army and its ability to adapt and execute an event which reaches out to young people and help recruit them," said Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey. "I'm impressed with the Army's ability to adapt to any situation; whether it's on the battlefield or in recruitment, the Army always adapts."

Preston said the event addresses three categories of Soldiers: The first consists of Soldiers in Advance Individual Training at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who attend the game. "This game shows the support Americans have for Soldiers," Preston said. "It makes them feel that they're part of a greater, bigger Army. Since they have such a limited time in the Army, they're seeing the Army in a bigger picture."

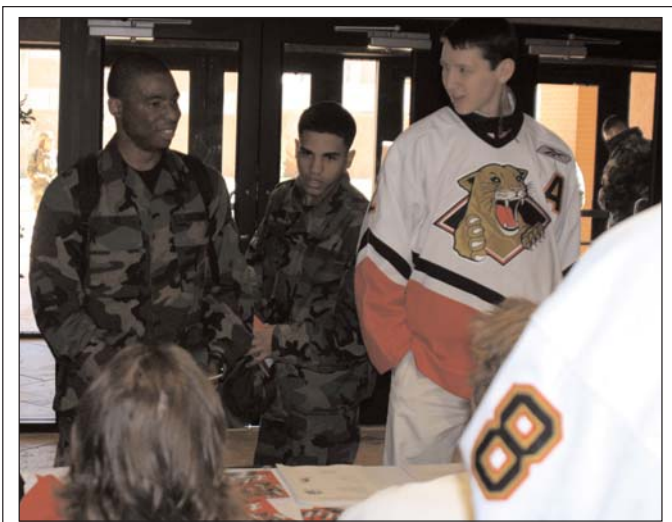
The next group consists of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom veterans whom Preston said the pre-game, half-time and post-game activities are geared for.

"The heroes are brought in from other installations and some are undergoing treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center," he said. "It's humbling to see the support Americans attending this game and elsewhere in America give to our veterans. They're saying thanks."

The last group includes retirees. "It's a great tribute to others who served in the past and continue to support today's Army," Preston said. "They're the best recruiters because of their experiences."

Cody said sponsoring football was a great idea because Soldiers love American football and it gives the Army a chance to showcase high school students and Soldiers on the same platform.

"When you watch the game, there's a tradition for young athletes to announce what school they choose to go to," Cody said. "One day we're having 150 (delayed entry program Soldiers) who are enlisting and also saying to America 'I want to be on your team.'"



## Meet the Wildcats

Airman 1st Class Keith Bias, 361st Training Squadron, meets members of the Wichita Falls Wildcats hockey team Jan. 13 at the Mesquite dining hall. The Wildcats came to Sheppard to sign autographs for the dining hall's grand opening.

Photo by Senior Airman Chris Powell

## MLK

Continued from Page 1B

starting to exert itself. The tempo was in their favor, and after Horace Johnson scored on a drive to the hole, they were up 60-48 with 12:00 left in the game.

But Dyess, fueled by point guard Shaun Hereford's sparkling ball handling and playmaking and the lightning-quick scoring moves of Donterrio Erby, refused to wilt. They went on a 10-0 run, closing the gap to 60-58 with 9:16 to go, and when Hereford drilled a 3-pointer with 7:35 left, the game was all even at 63-63.

Momentum was clearly on Dyess' side, and they rode it to the final buzzer. In the last 12 minutes, they outscored Lackland, 32-12, forcing a decisive second game.

Besides running the offense, Hereford showed he could put the ball in the basket, too, scoring 10 crucial second-half points. Erby led Dyess with 20 points—16 coming in the second half—and Chris McShan added 13. The three players combined for an impressive 35 second-half points, after scoring just 8 in the first half.

Both teams did well from the charity strip, with Dyess hitting on 18 of 22 free throws and Lackland converting on 13 of 16.

Having forced another game, Dyess was faced with the daunting task of having to win a third straight game on the same day, not to mention a second win in a row against the talented Lackland team.

Despite the tired legs, Dyess jumped out to a 7-2 lead in the first 2:00 of the championship game. They stretched their advantage to 13-4, then made it a double-digit lead after Hereford's 3-pointer made it 16-4 at the 15:20 mark. But that proved to be the high-water point for Dyess, as Lackland started to chip away at the difference.

With Bledsoe, Lackland's leading scorer from the first game, severely limited after sustaining an injury to his Achilles in the opener, Lackland needed to find an offensive spark in the second game. They got it from Chacaro Guess, who muscled inside for three key quick baskets, pulling Lackland to within a point, 23-22, 60 seconds before halftime. Guess also added a big blocked shot at the defensive end.

But the Warriors' real offensive boost—more like an explosion—came from veteran Andrew "Nasty" Smith, who simply took control of the game in the final 5:00 of the half. The 37-year-old leader, playing with the energy of a 20-year-old, scored in a variety of ways: a free throw, two driving moves to the basket, a 3-pointer, two more free throws, and a sweet reverse lay-up. By the time the smoke had cleared from his eruption, Lackland held a 38-31 lead going into the locker room, mostly thanks to

Smith's 16 points.

Coupled with Guess' half-dozen points, the teammates totaled 22 first-half points for Lackland. In the entire first game, the two combined for just 21 points.

Similar to the first game, when the Dyess trio of Hereford, Erby and McShan was silent in the first half but provided offensive fireworks in the second half, Lackland received a huge contribution in the first half of the second game from two players who were virtually anonymous in the previous game.

Coming out for the second half, Dyess again demonstrated the resolve, quickness and clutch shooting that made them such a dangerous team throughout the MLK tournament. This team never had any quit in them, and they went after Lackland in the second half with a determined effort that made it clear to all that this championship game was going to be a fight to the finish.

Lackland briefly extended their lead to 11-42-31, less than 2:00 into the half, but Dyess whittled the lead down to 44-42 with 15:10 to go. Both teams went a little cold and play got just a little ragged for a couple minutes inside of 15:00, but Lackland was still able to extend its lead to 51-43 with 12:00 left.

Ed Love's 3-pointer for Dyess made it 51-46, but Lackland outscored the Bombers 5-1 to get the lead back to 9. Love hit another 3-pointer, then scored a basket while being fouled. He converted the free throw, and his 9-point outburst in just over 5:00 almost single-handedly shot Dyess back to within 1.

But Nasty Smith and Michael Jones combined for 5 free throws, and the two teamed together again on a nice feed from Smith to Jones to put Lackland ahead, 65-59, with 4:20 left.

A clutch 3-pointer by Erby brought Dyess to within 3, 67-64, with 2:42 to go, and yet another three, after a sweet kiss off the glass by Lackland's Smith, made it 69-67 with 1:52 left.

Smith continued another free throw, then Erby continued his remarkable run with another 3-pointer. Like Love's outburst earlier, Erby's individual heroics brought Dyess storming back, this time knocking the game—and stomachs on both teams, no doubt—at 70-70 with 1:15 left. Erby's 9 points came within an amazing 90-second span.

With precious seconds ticking away,

Dyess' Hereford stole the ball. At the offensive end, he worked the ball to Erby, who was fouled by Smith. Erby stepped to the free throw line, calmly swishing the front end of a one-and-one. But in a wrenching turn of events, a Dyess player was whistled for a lane violation. This negated the free throw, and gave the ball to Lackland.

There seemed to be no doubt what Lackland's strategy was going to be. They put the ball into the hands of #10, Nasty Smith, and let him work the clock. When the scoreboard clock showed 10 seconds, he went to work. Nine-and-a-half seconds later, after getting by his man on a nifty drive to the left side of the hoop and deftly hoisting a finger roll that barely cleared the outstretched arms of Dyess' help-side defender, Brandon Connor, the ball swished through the rim and Lackland won a heart-stopping 72-70 victory for the championship.

Afterward, Smith talked about his tournament-winning basket.

"I was just trying to get the clock down, and wanted to look for a lay-up or a foul," he said. "I wasn't going to settle for a jump shot."

Smith said that taking the all-important final shot didn't bother him.

"I'm fairly clutch," he said, before adding, "more often than not."

Dyess' Coach Winford said that the loss was disappointing because of the way the lane violation impacted the outcome. But he kept a positive attitude.

"Our guys played awesome," he said. "We could have won it, so that hurts. But I'm satisfied with our effort."

Winford then tipped his cap to the Lackland team.

"If you've got to go to lose, it might as well be to a veteran team like Lackland," he said.

Smith led all scorers in the championship game with 26 points. Erby had 19 points for Dyess, while Hewitt Cox and Shaun Hereford added 12 and Ed Love 11.

**For a safe ride home, call  
Airman Against Drunk Driving at  
676-AADD.**



# Dining hall employee remembers 24-year career as pro boxer

By John Ingle  
Editor

It's happened before. He's been mistaken for a guy in the same profession who shares the same last name.

His career might not have been as prolific as his counterpart, but Pat Duran — no relation to boxing legend Roberto Duran — considers his 24 years spent in a boxing ring as successful. After all, the food services employee at the Mesquite Dining Facility here had a combined amateur and professional boxing record of 245 wins, 27 losses and one tie.

Duran's career spanned three decades beginning in Wichita Falls when he was 7 years old. He said it was more out of survival than something to do.

"Being born and raised here on the Eastside and poor, you have to learn how to fight," he said. "I got tired of getting beat up in gangs."

Eventually, Duran said he got out of the gangs as a teenager and into the gym to learn how to box instead of fight. The decision was partly due to the violent nature of gangs and his mother.

"I had to go to jail one night," he said. "My mama said, 'throw away the keys.' That scared me."

That began a successful amateur career with four-Golden Glove championships on the local, regional and state levels, he said.

Duran turned his eyes toward the professional arena after racking up more than 220 wins in the amateur ranks. And it didn't start out easy.

He came out of the corner strong, winning his first 13 bouts including 10 by knockout. His 14<sup>th</sup> fight in Fort Worth, Texas, April 2, 1981, would be his first real challenge.

"My first big fight as a professional, I had to go 12 rounds with the No. 8 contender," Duran recalled. "That was my first pro loss."

His opponent was James Busceme, now a former-No. 1 contender for the World Boxing Championship Lightweight title and Texas State Lightweight champion. The bout went the full 12 rounds scheduled, but the judges' card went in favor of Busceme.

Duran said he kept getting stronger throughout the match, but Busceme wouldn't hit the mat.

"You start thinking, 'is this guy ever going down?'" he said.

It didn't get any easier as Duran stepped into the ring less than a month later to square off against and highly ranked contender: Gonzalo Montellano.

The Wichita Falls-native now had his chance to get a step closer to holding the World Boxing Association Lightweight title. The match lasted 10 rounds, but it was the second round he said he remembered the most.

"He hit me and I was like this," he said, squinting his eyes and mimicking an "and I couldn't see him. He hit me again and I grabbed on for dear life."

Duran's career continued for a few more years, bouncing around from Oklahoma City to more well-known venues, including a bout with former-International Boxing Federation Champion Jimmy Paul in Las Vegas. The experienced boxer even sparred, or practiced, with former boxing greats Sugar Ray Leonard and Hector Camacho, admitting he got into a "street brawl" with Camacho during one practice session.

He has accomplished most of what he set out to do as a professional boxer: compete for a title and have a successful career.

"What I would do different is give back to the people who gave me support," he said. "The money's gone, but I'd give something back."

What he'd like to give back more than anything is a place for aspiring boxers in Wichita Falls to have a place to start.

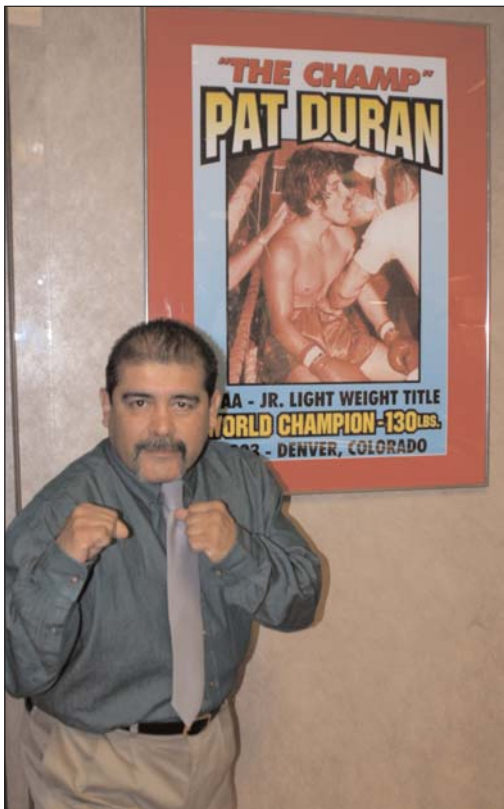


Photo by John Ingle

Pat Duran, Mesquite dining hall food service worker, poses in front of a boxing poster of himself. Duran's career spanned more than 20 years in amateur and pro boxing. He retired with a 245 wins, 27 losses and one tie.